

2019-2020 LEGISLATION OF INTEREST FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

The 2020 Session (2nd regular session) of the 123rd SC General Assembly convened on January 7, 2020. The report below includes selected bills of interest for higher education. The listing is not exhaustive. Bill numbers below are linked -- The link should direct you to the most current information for the bill. For additional information on legislation, please visit [www.scstatehouse.gov](http://www.scstatehouse.gov).

Note: This listing is for general informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used as a basis for legislative action. Bills identified by CHE staff include legislation introduced in the General Assembly which directly related to or impact higher education. For the most up-to-date information on legislative activity as well as full text of these and all other bills, go to SC's legislative information website for the General Assembly at [www.scstatehouse.gov](http://www.scstatehouse.gov). Bill numbers below are linked to the current version for the bill.

House bills (denoted by H.) / Senate bills (denoted by S.)  
Legislation is listed in numeric order. House (H.) bills are listed first and followed by Senate (S.) bills and Regulations. Numbering of Senate bills begins at 1 and numbering of House bills begins at 3000.

SENATE BILLS			(listed)		Committee(s)		
<a href="#">S. 25</a>	<a href="#">H. 3214</a>	South Carolina Promise Scholarship Act	Amending the SC Promise Scholarship to require that the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education shall administer and provide requirements for scholarship recipients	Sensors Hutto, Setzer, Jackson, Nicholson, Scott, Johnson, Kimpton, McElveen, Sabb, Fanning and Harpoatlian	1/8/2019	Finance	In Committee
<a href="#">S. 33</a>		Campus Free Expression Act	Mandating free speech on campus, including punishments for people trying to block free speech, and implementing a free speech issues annual report	Sensor Grooms	1/8/2019	Education	In Committee
<a href="#">S. 35</a>	<a href="#">H. 4296</a>	Reinforcing College Education on America's Constitutional Heritage (REACH) Act	Mandating each undergraduate student take a 3-hour course on American government documents with exemptions for students who took an AP or dual credit American government course in high school.	Sensor Grooms	1/8/2019	House Education and Public Works	Passed Senate 29-7 with 2 amendments on 2/13/19. Referred to House Education & Public Works Committee on 2/19/19
<a href="#">S. 49</a>		non-state board members	Allowing members of institutions' boards of trustees to not need to be residents of the state	Sensor Malloy	1/8/2019	Judiciary	In Committee
<a href="#">S. 68</a>		state board of regents	Establishing a South Carolina College and University Board of Regents that will take the responsibilities of CHE and SBCE	Sensor Malloy	1/8/2019	Education	In Committee
<a href="#">S. 87</a>		Student Association Freedom of Religion Act	Mandating that public college and universities don't deny benefits to religious student associations that are offered to other student associations	Sensor Campsen	1/8/2019	Education	In Committee
<a href="#">S. 114</a>		out-of-state scholarship	Providing LIFE, HOPE, or Palmetto scholarship funds to South Carolina resident students who are at a college or university out of state because no institution in SC offers the program	Sensor Massey	1/8/2019	Education	In Committee
<a href="#">S. 143</a>		scholarship changes	1.) Mandating the State Board of Education establish a scholarship for teachers who intend to work in critical need areas of the state 2) Requiring the amount that a LIFE scholarship recipient receive be based on family income level 3) Increasing the amount of the HOPE scholarship to \$3,000	Sensor Scott	1/8/2019	Education	In Committee
<a href="#">S. 152</a>		monument removal changes	Amending the restriction on the alteration, relocation, and removal of monuments so that it does not apply to school districts and colleges and universities.	Sensor Scott	1/8/2019	Finance	In Committee
<a href="#">S. 212</a>		military spouse in-state tuition	Expanding the in-state tuition rate for the spouse or child of a military personnel or veteran	Sensor Young	1/8/2019	Education	In Committee
<a href="#">S. 275</a>		threat of bodily harm	Making it illegal to make a threat of bodily harm at a college or university	Sensor Senn	1/8/2019	Judiciary	In Committee
<a href="#">S. 276</a>		threat of building damage	Making it illegal to make a threat of solicit someone to damage or harm someone on any government building, private school, college, or university	Sensor Senn	1/8/2019	House Judiciary	Passed Senate 30-10 on 4/10/19, introduced in the House
<a href="#">S. 283</a>							
		The State Institution of Higher Education Enterprise Act	Permitting institutional Boards of Trustees to establish an enterprise division exempt from some state laws for athletics and auxiliary programs	Sensor Talley	1/8/2019		Favorable from Committee with amendment
Bill #	Companion Legislation	Brief Descriptive Title (bold for bill titles)	Bill Title or Brief Description (If Bill Summary, text is presented in All CAPS)	Primary Sponsor & up to three additional listed, ("and others" signifies other sponsors not listed)	Date Introduced	Committee (Indicates Committee currently considering)	Status
<a href="#">S. 298</a>	<a href="#">H. 4576</a>	Higher Education Opportunity Act	1-1) Increasing higher ed funding as a percentage of General Fund revenue, 1-2) Developing a trust fund to provide scholarship and operational funds, 1-3) Establishing a higher ed repair and renovation fund administered by the Executive Budget Office, 2) Normalizing the 10-point grading scale for scholarship eligibility, 3) Appropriating more need-based grant funding, 4) Not allowing the use more of the General Fund for scholarships than what was used in 2018-19, 5) Moving STEM scholarship stipends from sophomore to junior year, 6) Requiring all institutions to send maintenance and improvement projects to the Executive Budget Office, 7) Adding an index for inflation to the projected cost for projects, 8) Limiting the amount of institution Comprehensive Permanent Improvement Plan recommendations that need CHE approval, 9) Limiting the amount of construction or purchases that need CHE approval, 10) Requiring the CHE to submit policy statements and rules for approval to the General Assembly, 11) The State Fiscal Accountability Authority shall use a vendor to administer the Student Loan Default Aversion and Financial Literacy Program.	Sensors Sheheen, Peeler, Jackson, Williams, Talley, Setzer, Gregory and Campbell	1/8/2019		Up for Senate 2nd Reading, contacted by Hembree and Sheheen
<a href="#">S. 313</a>		speech pathologist licensing changes	Changing the requirements for speech pathologist licensing related to continuing education hours and bachelor's degrees	Sensor Alexander	1/8/2019	Labor, Commerce and Industry	In Committee
			1) Developing of 2030 College and Career Readiness goals, 2) Develop <b>Student Bill of Rights</b> , 3) develop "Zero to Twenty" education committee, 4-1) Development of a high school computer science course and certification program for computer science teachers, 4-2) Remove social studies from high school areas assessed, 4-3) Adding new requirements for the Palmetto Fellows and LIFE scholarships including dual enrollment option, 4-4) developing English/language arts standards, 4-5) CHE must convene the Advisory Committee on Academic Program to develop a state-wide articulation agreements and dual enrollment, 4-6) Requiring remedial coursework to be only taken at high school (not at a college), 4-7) CHE must help in developing a career pathways system, 4-8) SBCE must establish common admission scores and provide information about continuing education program for people who do not meet the minimum requirements, 4-9) Moving adult education to the SBCE, increase career and technical education in high school, 4-10) Developing schools of innovation, 5-1) changing education preparation standards, 5-2) Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Assessment shall update their teacher survey to address working conditions, 5-3) developing new standards for teacher salaries, adding a tuition waiver of children of teachers, allowing school boards to authorize mileage for teachers, 6) increasing school accountability, developing "transformation school district" for underperforming schools, 7) developing local school board accountability.	Sensors Hembree, Malloy, Turner, Setzer, Sheheen, and Alexander	1/24/2019	Education	Debate on Senate Floor continues as of 2/27/20. Last Amended on 2/27/20.
<a href="#">S. 431</a>	<a href="#">H. 3404</a>	DREAMer residency	Providing in-state residency status for "DREAMers" at public colleges and universities	Sensors Hutto and Jackson	1/24/2019	Education	In Committee
<a href="#">S. 588</a>		adjustments to the 1976 Education and Accountability Act	Creating a fund through State Dept. of Ed to reimburse teachers for the tuition costs associated with getting a literacy add-on endorsement	Sensors Sheheen, J. Matthews, Hembree and Bennett	2/28/2019	Education	In Committee
<a href="#">S. 627</a>		Campus property tax exemption	Extending the exemption on property tax to cover housing, dining, parking, athletics, or other auxiliary approved by CHE, JBCE, SFAA, and the board when the entity is contractually obligated to offer the service to the college or university	Sensor Campbell	3/7/2019	Finance	In Committee
<a href="#">S. 641</a>		The Campus Intellectual Diversity Act	Requiring CHE to establish, fund, and staff an Office of Public Policy Events on every campus that would organize open debates and forums that would address divergent viewpoints. The office could invite speakers with a diversity of perspectives. The office would be responsible for maintaining a calendar and video recordings of all events.	Sensor Grooms	3/12/2019	Education	In Committee
<a href="#">S. 699</a>		Student threat penalty	including a penalty of a fine and/or jail time for a student convicted of making threats using any form of communication	Sensor McLeod	3/21/2019	Judiciary	In Committee
<a href="#">S. 739</a>		ride-hailing service safety	A concurrent resolution asking local governments, law enforcement, and colleges and universities to improve the safety of ride-hailing services	Sensors Senn and Harpoatlian	4/3/2019	Transportation	In Committee
<a href="#">S. 772</a>		Improving ride-sharing safety	Encouraging local governments, agencies, colleges and universities to work with transportation network and ride-hailing services to improve safety	Sensors Senn and Harpoatlian	4/18/2019	Judiciary	In Committee
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<a href="#">S. 798</a>		Revisions to the Univ. of S.C. Board of Trustees	Reducing the size of the board of trustees and the areas for selection, changing the terms of the elected board members, and revising certain powers and limiting how special meeting can be called	Sensors Peeler and Harpoatlian	4/30/2019	Education	In Committee
<a href="#">S. 874</a>		CHE Contributions	Adds CHE to the agencies that may receive voluntary individual contributions through the income tax return check-off.	Sensor Verdin	12/11/2019	Finance	In Committee
<a href="#">S. 935</a>		College Athlete Compensation	Allows HHS to annually award stipends to student athletes who maintain good academic standing during the previous year and to provide conditions for the receipt of stipends. Creates an Athlete Trust Fund to be funded with a percentage of sport-funding generated by the state to be deposited into the fund for each student athlete annually and upon the completion of a financial literacy fund.	Sensors Kimpton and McLeod	12/11/2019	Education	In Committee
<a href="#">S. 937</a>		Student Representation on IHL Boards of Directors	Students government presidents of IHLs must serve on their IHL board as voting members and not entitled to receive subsistence allowances. Exempts technical colleges.	Sensor Fanning	12/11/2019	Education	In Committee
HOUSE BILLS							
<a href="#">H. 3010</a>		encourage U.S. Congress for debt-free college	Encouraging the US Congress to enact legislation to make sure students have access to debt-free higher education	Rep. Cobb-Hunter	1/8/2019	Invitations and Memorial Resolutions	In Committee
<a href="#">H. 3056</a>		hazing law changes	Expanding the definition of hazing and increasing the penalties of the acts.	Reps. Clary, Cyburn and Norrell	1/8/2019	Judiciary	In Committee
<a href="#">H. 3098</a>		In-state student status	1) Making students exempt from out-of-state tuition and eligible for state scholarships if he or she went to high school in the state for 3 or more years, graduated in state, received a diploma, and registers at an institution, 2) Students without law full immigration status if he or she files an affidavit stating that he or she has filed an application to legalize his or her immigration status, 3) CHE shall adopt rules and regulations to implement the provisions	Rep. Rutherford	1/8/2019	Ways and Means	In Committee
<a href="#">H. 3099</a>		Forming Open and Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act	1) Making it illegal to block someone's free speech opportunity on a campus, 2) Mandating that public colleges and universities cannot deny religious, political, or ideological organizations a benefit given to other student groups, 3) Requiring that institution prepare a report, post it on their website, and submit a report on action implemented to comply with the requirements to CHE	Rep. G. R. Smith	1/8/2019	Education and Public Works	tabled in subcommittee
<a href="#">H. 3100</a>		American Government class	1) CHE and the colleges and universities may identify a listing of recommended instructional materials of essential American Government documents, 2) Requiring students to take one American government class in higher education	Rep. G. R. Smith	1/8/2019	Education and Public Works	In Committee
<a href="#">H. 3102</a>		Scholarships guidelines	Eliminating the restriction that Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, and HOPE must not have a drug or alcohol offense	Rep. Stavrinakis	1/8/2019	Education and Public Works	In Committee
<a href="#">H. 3140</a>		scholarship changes	1) Providing full tuition scholarships for teachers to study master's degrees in their content areas, 2) CHE shall develop a list of programs in the state, teachers can seek approval of programs from CHE, 3) Providing full tuition scholarships for students agree to be teachers in schools (public or independent), 4) Providing grants to teachers to repay student loans, 5) LIFE and HOPE scholarships would be closed for future students	Rep. Collins	1/8/2019	Education and Public Works	In Committee
<a href="#">H. 3156</a>		deferring Palmetto	Allowing students to defer the award from winning the Palmetto Fellows scholarship for 1 year	Rep. Norrell	1/8/2019	Education and Public Works	In Committee
<a href="#">H. 3183</a>		tax credit for loans	Expanding education loan payment tax credit and provide a tax credit for education loan payment by employers	Rep. Pendarvis	1/8/2019	Ways and Means	In Committee
<a href="#">H. 3197</a>		Student Loan Bill of Rights Act	1) Using licensing and investigation fees, CHE shall establish a student loan ombudsman, 2) The ombudsman shall investigate student loan issues in the state, 3) The Executive Director of CHE will submit a report on action taken and recommendations for student loan servicing	Rep. Govan	1/15/2019	Education	Received third reading on 2/20/20 and sent to Senate.
<a href="#">H. 3199</a>		financial literacy on campus	Requiring the student financial literacy program must include information on education loans	Rep. Govan	1/15/2019	Education and Public Works	Passed House, referred to Senate Education Committee
<a href="#">H. 3214</a>	<a href="#">S. 25</a>	South Carolina Promise Scholarship Act	Amending the SC Promise Scholarship to require that the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education shall administer and provide requirements for scholarship recipients	Rep. Pendarvis	1/8/2019	Education and Public Works	In Committee
<a href="#">H. 3218</a>		Metal Detectors in Public Schools Act	Requiring metal detectors at all public entrances to public schools and higher education institutions in the state	Rep. Gillard	1/8/2019	Education and Public Works	In Committee
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<a href="#">H. 3254</a>		military spouse and widow free tuition	Extending free tuition benefits for veteran's children to also include spouse or widow	Rep. Hosey	1/8/2019	Ways and Means	In Committee
<a href="#">H. 3324</a>		College Financial Literacy Act	1) Expanding the financial literacy program so that CHE would work with public higher ed institutions to help 8th graders, 12th graders, and college students, 2) Education would be offered for students who wish to transfer or withdraw from public colleges and universities	Rep. King	1/8/2019	Education and Public Works	In Committee
<a href="#">H. 3330</a>		notice before scholarship cancelling	Requiring colleges and universities to provide a written notice 90 days before tuition is due if they cancel or reduce a student's scholarship.	Rep. King	1/8/2019	Education and Public Works	In Committee
<a href="#">H. 3337</a>		tax credit for teacher master's degree	Providing income tax credit for teachers making tuition payments on a master's degree	Rep. Collins	1/8/2019	Ways and Means	In Committee
<a href="#">H. 3348</a>		Title IX Violation Notification Act	Requiring a five-year period after graduation or withdrawal where a person with a Title IX violation has been listed on their transcript	Rep. Huggins	1/8/2019	Education and Public Works	In Committee
<a href="#">H. 3352</a>		audits	Requiring the Legislative Audit Council to perform a management performance audit of each public college and university	Rep. King	1/8/2019	Judiciary	In Committee
<a href="#">H. 3403</a>		competency-based schools	Exempting students in competency-based schools from certain state regulations, CHE and State Board of Technical and Comprehensive Education shall establish policies for students who graduate from competency-based schools	Reps. Collins, Allison, Felder, Govan, Taylor, Bradley, West, Erickson and Stringer	1/8/2019	Senate Education	Passed House 89-0, in Senate Committee
<a href="#">H. 3404</a>		DREAMer residency	Providing in-state residency status for "DREAMers" at public colleges and universities	Reps. Collins, Bernstein, Erickson, Cobb-Hunter, Rutherford, Norrell, King, Hengage, Wheeler, Thigpen, Bravley and Pendarvis	1/8/2019	Judiciary	In Committee
<a href="#">H. 3410</a>		local tax on higher ed	Allowing counties and municipalities to impose a community charge (tax) on hospitals or higher ed institutions	Rep. Rutherford	1/8/2019	Ways and Means	In Committee
<a href="#">H. 3413</a>		student tax credit definition change	Redefine student for the tax credit to add people who completed a GED and remove conditions about not having a drug or alcohol offense	Rep. Stavrinakis and Hosey	1/8/2019	Ways and Means	In Committee
<a href="#">H. 3576</a>		SC Workforce Industry Needs (CWINS) scholarship	Establishing a new scholarship for technical colleges for LTAP scholarship receivers who take at least 6 hours and pursue an associate degree or certificate in a critical workforce area defined by SBCE	Reps. White, Cobb Hunter and Garvin	1/15/2019		Passed House 105-0 on 1/31/19, and favorable from Senate Education Committee, referred for second time in Senate
<a href="#">H. 3577</a>		Alternative educator programs	Higher education institutions can submit a separate educator preparation program to the State Board of Education that does not need to be nationally accredited	Reps. Allison, Taylor and Felder	1/15/2019	Senate Education	Passed House 100-3 on 4/9/19, referred to Senate Education
<a href="#">H. 3578</a>		Educator information	The Dept. of Ed. shall provide information to educator preparation programs with information on graduates' performance aggregated by class. The schools must keep identifiable information confidential and can't share it with 3rd parties without written consent.	Allison, Taylor, Felder and Stringer	1/15/2019	Education and Public Works	In Committee
<a href="#">H. 3757</a>		Establishing state longitudinal data set	Establishing the Workforce and Education Data Oversight Committee to oversee the collection cross-department, individual, longitudinal data	Reps. Lucas and Collins	1/24/2019	Senate Labor, Commerce, and Industry	Passed House 92-8 on 5/27/19, referred to Senate Labor, Commerce, and Industry
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<a href="#">H. 3759</a>	<a href="#">S. 410</a>	South Carolina Career Opportunity and Access for All Act	1) Developing of 2030 College and Career Readiness goals, 2) Develop <b>Student Bill of Rights</b> , 3) develop "Zero to Twenty" education committee, 4-1) Develop of a high school computer science course and certification program for computer science teachers, 4-2) Remove social studies from high school areas assessed, 4-3) Adding new requirements for the Palmetto Fellows and LIFE scholarships including dual enrollment option, 4-4) developing English/language arts standards, 4-5) CHE must convene the Advisory Committee on Academic Program to develop a state-wide articulation agreements and dual enrollment, 4-6) Requiring remedial coursework to be only taken at high school (not at a college), 4-7) CHE must help in developing a career pathways system, 4-8) SBCE must establish common admission scores and provide information about continuing education program for people who do not meet the minimum requirements, 4-9) Moving adult education to the SBCE, increase career and technical education in high school, 4-10) Developing schools of innovation, 5-1				